



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Learning from deaths and solution focused responses to complex needs.

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Rough Sleepers Initiative

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Rough Sleepers Initiative (MHCLG)

Manifesto commitment to end rough sleeping

**Rough Sleeping Strategy launched in August
2018**

**Originally funded 83 areas – now cover 270
areas**

'Everyone In' – March 2020

RSI4



Deaths – fatality reviews

We will work to ensure that Safeguarding Adult Reviews are conducted when a person who sleeps rough dies or is seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult. We will consider how lessons learned from these reviews will inform improvements in local systems and services.



Deaths – issues

Personal:

- Multiple and complex health, housing and care issues
- Deteriorating health issues
- Frailty
- Substance misuse issues
- Mental health issues

Institutional issues:

- Failure to recognise and respond to cases of multiple exclusion and homelessness
- Thresholds and criteria of services/agencies
- Lack of understanding of self neglect
- Lack of interagency working
- Lack of professional curiosity



Deaths – fatality reviews

Good practice

- Redbridge
- Bath
- Exeter
- Southend
- Eastbourne



Language



Language:



Homelessness



Fragility



Vulnerability



Complexity



**Reframing
Homelessness –
Crisis**



Complex issues - cases

- ‘Young man who is in accommodation and his mental health deteriorating. Is delusional. Is psychotic. Is a risk to himself and to others. Is threatening other people. Police accompanying workers on visits. Referred to adult social care and mental health services – lack of response – not a mental health issue’
- ‘Woman in temporary accommodation. Past history of trauma. Is psychotic and mute. Is not engaging. Is intimidating. Is hoarding and there are serious issues re cleanliness. The situation is deteriorating.’



Complex issues cases

- A gentleman is an entrenched rough sleeper. Has a history of regularly being evicted from accommodation due to his anti-social behaviour. Is violent towards staff. Has substance misuse issues. Has regular involvement with the criminal justice system. What should we do? Where can we place him?
- 'A man is living on the streets. Is always inebriated. Has capacity. There are issues of self neglect. Is very vulnerable and has very high level of personal need. Engages with a local charity. We don't think we can support him. What do we do?



Challenges

Lack of response from
local services

Not seen to meet
safeguarding
thresholds or agency
criteria

Mobility – individuals
moving between
accommodation/street
and when moves out
of area

Lack of understanding
that mental capacity
may fluctuate

Lack of understanding
of risks associated
with e homelessness

Individuals lack trust
especially in services
and may have
histories of trauma

Lack of understanding
re homelessness- the
causes and diversity

Lack of recognition of
vulnerability and
fragility

Lack of recognition
and of understanding
of self-neglect



Governance - principles

- Person centred
- Responsive
- Respect and dignity
- Empowerment
- Timely
- Informed
- Trauma informed
- Whole system approach
- Protection
- Accessibility
- Flexibility
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Creativity
- Compassion and empathy



Governance – good practice

- Outreach / Inreach
- Needs assessments
- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Whole system integrated approach
- Consult people with a lived experience of homelessness
- Support for staff